

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated November 18, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claim 4 has been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled and claims 5 and 10 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6, 8, and 9 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,555,647 to *Torborg et al.* (hereinafter “*Torborg*”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, “the reference must teach every element of the claim.” The Applicant respectfully submits that *Torborg* does not teach every element recited in claims 1-3 and 9. Thus, *Torborg* cannot anticipate these claims. For example, claims 1 and 9 recite, among other features, a motor shaft comprising a chamfer which is “configured to facilitate removal of the fan from the motor shaft.” *Torborg* does not disclose this feature. In maintaining the rejection, the Office Action indicates that a flat surface 33 is “configured to facilitate removal of the fan from the motor shaft, as expressly disclosed in column 3, lined 53-67.” *See e.g.*, the Office Action at page 2. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. No where does the cited portion of the reference discuss the removal of the fan from the motor shaft. Instead, the cited portion discusses attaching a shaft to a fan. Furthermore, no where does the reference discuss that the flat surface 33 is configured to facilitate removal of a fan from a motor shaft, either implied or expressly. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that *Torborg* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claims 1 and 9, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Similarly, claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 3, which depends from claim 1, recites that “the chamfer is disposed between the motor and the motor bracket.” In maintaining the rejection, the Office Action indicates that Figure 5 of *Torborg* discloses that “the chamfer is disposed between the motor and bracket as claimed.” *See e.g.*, the Office Action at page 3. The Applicant disagrees. *Torborg* discloses that, assuming *arguendo* that the flat surface 33 is a chamfer, the flat surface 33 is near an enlarged portion 32a of a second motor hub 32. However, *Torborg* does not disclose a motor bracket. Thus, *Torborg* cannot disclose that the flat surface 33 is disposed between a motor and a motor bracket. As such, claim 3 is patentable over *Torborg* and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claims 4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Torborg* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,529 to *Pool* (hereinafter “*Pool*”). Claim 7 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection as it applies to this claim moot. Regarding claims 4, 6, 8, and 9, the Applicant traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to “establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” The Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the cited references, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest all the elements recited in claims 4 and 6-9. In particular, claim 4 has been amended to recite a laundry dryer comprising, among other features, a motor shaft including “a chamfer disposed between the motor and the motor bracket.” As previously discussed, *Torborg* does not disclose this feature. Similarly, *Pool* does not disclose this feature. Therefore, claim 4 is, along with claims 6, 8, and 9, which depend therefrom, patentable over the cited references and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1-4 and 6-9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,248 to *Hong et al.* (hereinafter “*Hong*”) in view of either *Torborg* or *Pool*.

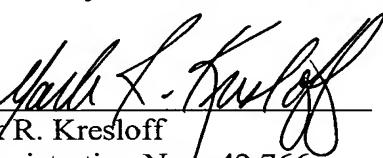
Claim 7 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Regarding claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 9, the Applicant traverses the rejection. The Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the references, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest all the features recited in claims 1-4 and 6-9. As correctly pointed out in the Office Action, *Hong* does not disclose a chamfered portion. *See e.g.*, the Office Action at page 4. Furthermore, as previously discussed, neither *Torborg* nor *Pool*, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest a chamfer as recited in the claims. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 9 are patentable over the cited references and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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